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February 13, 2002

BY FACSIMILE

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. - Room 5137
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Yesterday, as Chairman of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, I chaired a Subcommittee hearing on Accountability for Presidential Gifts. The hearing presented the Subcommittee's undisputed factual findings following a one-year investigation. In addition, all three witnesses on Panel I – Common Cause President Scott Harshbarger, Brookings Institution Vice President Paul Light, and Gregory Walden, former Associate Counsel to the President – in their written statements or in response to Member questions recommended that I refer this matter for criminal investigation by the Department of Justice.

Pursuant to this testimony, I am referring to you for possible criminal investigation evidence relating to the solicitation, receipt, failure to report, or conversion of Presidential gifts by former President William Jefferson Clinton and former First Lady Hillary Rodman Clinton.

The documents that I have enclosed with this letter fully support the opening of a criminal investigation into this matter. These documents are as follows: (1) a copy of my opening statement (Attachment A); a copy of the Subcommittee's 55-page factual findings (Attachment B) that were undisputed at yesterday's hearing; and (3) a copy of Mr. Walden's written statement (Attachment C) reflecting (on pages 5-6) in a section captioned "Evidence of widespread or systemic failures should be investigated," his conclusion that such evidence could form the basis for a Department of Justice investigation of possible violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (regarding false statements), 18 U.S.C. § 641 (regarding conversion of Federal property) and 5 C.F.R. § 2635.202(c)(1), (2), (j) (regarding solicitation of a gratuity).

The Subcommittee is willing to make available to you any materials that you need to assist in your investigation. Please contact Subcommittee Deputy Staff Director Barbara Kahlow at 226-3058 with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ose", written over the printed name.

Doug Ose

Chairman

Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural
Resources, and Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Dan Burton
The Honorable John Tierney